

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Application of: )  
)  
Fumio TAMURA )  
) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Application No.: To be assigned )  
)  
) Examiner: Unknown  
Filed: Concurrently herewith )  
)  
For: FACILITY RETRIEVAL )  
APPARATUS AND METHOD )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the  
above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 7, 8, and 10 with the following:

7. (Amended) A facility retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said  
urging means reports the number of facility names extracted by said extracting means.

8. (Amended) A facility retrieval apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein names provided by combining a plurality of classified names are stored in said classified name directory.

10. (Amended) A facility retrieval apparatus as claimed in claims 2 or 3, wherein in case where said identifying means is unable to specify one name out of the names received, said urging means urges the inputting of a name for the specifying purpose.

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**Conclusion**

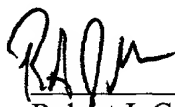
The foregoing amendments are being made to place the application in condition for examination. A favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:



Robert J. Goodell  
Reg. No. 41,040

Dated: October 15, 2001

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

Claim 7. (Amended) A facility retrieval apparatus as ~~claim in any one of claims 2 to 5~~  
**claimed in claim 2 or 3**, wherein said urging means reports the number of facility names  
extracted by said extracting means.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) A facility retrieval apparatus as claimed in any one of claims ~~[1 to 7]~~ **1-3**,  
wherein names provided by combining a plurality of classified names are stored in said classified  
name directory.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) A facility retrieval apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~[2 to 5]~~  
**2 or 3**, wherein in case where said identifying means is unable to specify one name out of the  
names received, said urging means urges the inputting of a name for the specifying purpose.